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Amendments to the Claims

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1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A network entertainment unit, comprising:

an interface to a wide area network (WAN), via which the network entertainment unit is coupled to a remote central resource, wherein the remote central resource stores entertainment content items available to be retrieved by the network entertainment unit for performance by the network entertainment unit, and;  
a user interface, comprising at least one graphical user interface (GUI) and a user input device, that interacts with a user to allow the user to select one or more displaying entertainment content items available for performance;  
a local memory that stores a number of the entertainment content items and a master list of all of the entertainment content items, including entertainment content items available from a remote central resource;  
a user input device  
and  
content management logic to control the entertainment unit such that in response to receiving a request via the user input device for performance of an that, when a selected entertainment content item is not stored in the local memory, causes:  
i) requesting over the WAN interface the selected entertainment content item that is not stored in the local memory from the remote central resource;

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ii) receiving the requested entertainment content item via the WAN interface; and

iii) performing the received entertainment content item by the network entertainment unit;

~~retrieving the requested item via a WAN and performing the requested item locally in response to the request.~~

12. (original) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising an infrared (IR) receiver/transmitter for transferring data and commands from the entertainment unit and for receiving data and commands in the entertainment unit.

13. (Currently amended) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising ~~at least one~~ a payment device which is selected from the group consisting of a coin acceptor; a bill acceptor; and a credit card/smart card reader.

14. (Original) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising an audio unit comprising audio speakers and hardware and software for playing music.

15. (Previously presented) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, wherein the ~~at least one~~ GUI comprises:

a music selection GUI through which the user may choose music from the list of entertainment content items stored remotely to be played locally; and

a game selection GUI through which the user may choose games from the list of entertainment content items stored remotely to be played locally.

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16-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously presented) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising:

a local area network (LAN) interface through which the network entertainment unit may communicate with similar network entertainment units in a venue; and  
~~a WAN interface through which the network entertainment unit may communicate with a central management resource remote from the venue.~~

55. (Currently amended) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising a local cache capable of storing the requested entertainment content item, wherein the received requested entertainment content item of entertainment content requested from the master list is stored in the local memory cache and performed locally in response to the user request upon receipt via the WAN.

57. (Currently amended) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, wherein the requested entertainment content item is, upon receipt, placed in a queue to be performed locally in response to the user request upon receipt.

58. (Currently amended): The network entertainment unit of claim 11, wherein the requested entertainment content item is performed locally in response to the user request immediately upon receipt via the WAN.

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59. (Previously presented) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising at least one user identification (ID) device selected from a thumbprint recognition device and a facial recognition device.

60. (Previously presented) The network entertainment unit of claim 11, further comprising a video unit comprising hardware and software for capturing and processing images.

61-95. (Canceled)

96. (New) A network entertainment unit, comprising:

means for interfacing a wide area network (WAN), via which the network entertainment unit is coupled to a remote central resource, wherein the remote central resource stores entertainment content items available to be retrieved by the network entertainment unit for performance by the network entertainment unit, and;

means for interfacing with a user, comprising a graphical user interface (GUI) and a user input device, that interacts with a user to allow the user to select one or more entertainment content items;

means for storing a number of the entertainment content items and a master list of all of the entertainment content items, including entertainment content items available from a remote central resource; and

means, when a selected entertainment content item is not stored in the local memory,

for

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- i) requesting over the WAN interface the selected entertainment content item that is not stored in the local memory from the remote central resource;
- ii) receiving the requested entertainment content item via the WAN interface; and
- iii) performing the received entertainment content item by the network entertainment unit;

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